

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE
ON THE 16TH DAY OF JUNE, 2020.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF HANCOCK) SS

The meeting was called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Delbert Kreps.

An invocation was given by Mr. Stevens. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by the Clerk.

Those present were: Delbert Kreps, Chairman
 Kerry Asbridge, County Clerk

Wayne Bollin	Steve Finney
Steve Bolton	Janet Fleming
Dennis Castlebury	Mark Hanson (by phone)
Pat Cramer	Mark Menn
Patsy Davis	Tom Rogers
Harry Douglas	Tom Scheetz
Brian Stevens	

Sheriff Scott Bentzinger, Carthage Community Developer Amy Graham, States Attorney Rachel Mast, EMS/Ambulance Coordinator Jenny Meeks, Lori Sutton, Director of the McDonough County Public Transportation (administers Hancock County Public Transportation), Joy Swearingen of the Hancock County Journal-Pilot, and county board secretary Betty Twaddle were also present. Approximately 30 other persons were present.

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion, and it carried.

Todd Courtois informed the county board and others that he and other citizens are circulating a petition to split Illinois into two states. He said the parts of Illinois are very different - splitting into two states is a solution he wants to try. He and others hope to get referenda on the ballot in as many counties as possible.

Mr. Cramer said he agrees Chicago is quite different from here. He said he has been on many things with "people from there" and observed the differences. He added sales tax revenue in Illinois was down \$181 million in May, 2020 versus the prior year.

Mr. Scheetz said the Fiscal Year 2021 state budget assumes \$6 billion will be borrowed by the State of Illinois. He questioned how current state debts might be apportioned.

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2020 meeting. Mr. Cramer seconded the motion, and it carried.

Mr. Courtois said he believed splitting Illinois into two states will provide an economic and population boom in this part of Illinois.

Mr. Stevens said, "It seems ironic this is the 168th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's address to the Illinois General Assembly. Lincoln was seeking a U.S. Senate seat (appointed by the General Assembly at that time). Lincoln lost that election because he spoke against splitting the Union (United States) into North and South."

Mr. Stevens said the Southern Illinois University Paul Simon Institute for Public Policy did a study which compared taxes paid by regions of Illinois versus benefits received. The conclusion follows:

<u>Money returned per dollar paid in taxes</u>	
Chicago	90 cents
Suburban Chicago	53 cents
Central Illinois	\$1.87

Mr. Stevens concluded noting many state universities are spread across rural Illinois. They depend on Chicago and the Chicago area for students and funds.

Kathy Sparrow spoke in favor of a resolution presented to the county board declaring "Hancock County, Illinois will resume opening businesses, without restrictions, and begin to live their lives as was normal before the Covid Pandemic as of June 17, 2020".

She said J.B. Pritzker's Executive Order prevented her from being in close proximity to her husband, Rod, while he was being treated for a heart attack at Blessing Hospital.

Chad Steward said J.B. Pritzker's Executive Order was oppressive. He added government programs offered to individuals and businesses in response to the economic consequences were a "sell out" of the American dream.

Armadillo George said her son was in the military fighting riots, and she feared for his safety. She noted J.B. Pritzker was from Chicago - and everyone from Chicago is part of the mobsters.

Barry Whitaker, a restaurant owner from Bowen, said the business restrictions have been terrible for his new business. He asked for lifting restrictions.

Scott Hall said he was insulted by the county board's concerns, and failure to pass a resolution stating businesses could operate without restrictions.

Some board members have said encouraging business owners to operate and ignore the Executive Order could result in bad consequences for businesses - including license revocations. The county's insurance carrier said it will not cover lawsuits or liabilities resulting from county action authorizing businesses to violate the Executive Order. A copy of the letter from the insurance carrier was displayed.

Mr. Hall said he had copies of the U.S. Constitution for all who wanted it to prove his point that the Executive Order is illegal.

A unidentified man from Dallas City said businesses are suffering, "No thanks to Governor Pritzker." He said he wants to eat in a local restaurant and go to funerals.

Keith Durand of Pontoosuc, owner of a septic service, said it is business as usual for himself - but he feels sorry for other businesses.

Mr. Durand thanked Sheriff Bentzinger and asked the sheriff to comment.

Sheriff Bentzinger stated simply, "I will not violate civil rights."

Several questions and comments were directed to States Attorney Rachel Mast about enforcement.

Gayla Gastler said she did not want a big confrontation. She suggested "seeing what they are doing in Quincy".

Belynda Allen, Hancock County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director said, "Do what is right. I am the biggest opponent of Governor Pritzker on FACEBOOK."

Don Rosenboom briefly addressed the meeting.

Chad Stewart told county board members to forget about insurance and consequences. He confidently declared, "You have us to back you up."

Barry Whitaker said, "I am not worried about anyone in this county filing a lawsuit."

Patsy Davis moved to approve a resolution entitled "**COVID Reopening Return to Work Recommendations**", which declares "Hancock County, Illinois will resume opening businesses, without restrictions, and begin to live their lives as was normal before the Covid Pandemic as of June 17, 2020". Mr. Scheetz seconded the motion.

On roll call, Bollin, Castlebury, Cramer, Davis, Douglas, Menn, Rogers, and Scheetz voted "Yes". Bolton, Finney, Fleming, and Stevens voted "No". Kreps "abstained". The resolution was approved eight to four with one abstention.

Lori Sutton, Director of the McDonough County Public Transportation (administers Hancock County Public Transportation) presented a CONSENT AGENDA I for Hancock County to continue participation in public transportation. The local match money will be provided by Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois, Memorial Hospital, and the West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

Mr. Scheetz moved to approve CONSENT AGENDA I for Hancock County to continue participation in public transportation. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion.

On roll call, Castlebury, Cramer, Davis, Douglas, Finney, Fleming, Rogers, Scheetz, Stevens, and Kreps voted "Yes". Bollin, Bolton, and Menn voted "No". Kreps "abstained". The CONSENT AGENDA I was approved ten to three.

C O N S E N T A G E N D A I

- A. Public Transportation Applicant Ordinance in Hancock County, II.
- B. Resolution Authorizing Execution and Amendment of Section 5311 Grant Agreement
- C. Acceptance of the Special Warranty

Mr. Bolton presented the report of a meeting held by the County Highway Committee on May 28, 2020. Mr. Bolton moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menn, and on roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Scheetz moved to approve C O N S E N T A G E N D A II to enter into engineering agreements with Klingner & Associates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas, and on roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

C O N S E N T A G E N D A II

A. Approve an engineering agreement with Klingner & Associates, P.C. in the amount of \$32,000 to provide engineering services for rehabilitation of a bridge on the Denver to Plymouth road at Panther Creek.

B. Approve an engineering agreement with Klingner & Associates, P.C. in the amount of \$59,000 to provide engineering services for replacement of a bridge on the Bluff Road (south of Warsaw) at Mallard Creek.

Mr. Bollin presented the report of the Finance Committee on June 11, 2020. Mr. Bollin moved the reports be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolton. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Hanson joined the meeting by telephone.

Mr. Rogers moved to approve two resolutions enabling Hancock County to apply for Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program grants from a portion of Illinois Community Development Block Grant funds for thirteen businesses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finney. On roll call, Bolton, Castlebury, Cramer, Davis, Douglas, Finney, Fleming, Menn, Rogers, Scheetz, Stevens, and Kreps voted "Yes". Bollin voted "No". The CONSENT AGENDA III was approved thirteen to one.

C O N S E N T A G E N D A III

A. Approve a Fair Housing Resolution

B. Approve a County Board Resolution of Support for 13 businesses to receive Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program grants from a portion of Illinois Community Development Block Grant funds.

Pat Cramer said a newspaper report citing economic development employees for their work on the business grants was wrong. "Tom Rogers and Sherry Saint and Kathy Jacob of Nauvoo Villas did the work. Economic development had nothing to do with the work." Mr. Cramer asked the reporter to write a correction.

Mr. Finney moved to approve a resolution convey a mobile home in Nauvoo to Meagan Pool following a successful bid of \$790.36. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scheetz. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes". The mobile home had three years of unpaid real estate taxes.

Mr. Scheetz presented the report of a meeting held by the Building and Grounds Committee on June 8, 2020. Mr. Scheetz moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castlebury. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

The Public Building Commission Treasurer's Report was provided to county board members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Fleming presented the report of a meeting held by the County Health Committee on June 9, 2020. Ms. Fleming moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bollin. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Ms. Fleming, Mr. Menn, and EMS/Ambulance Coordinator Jenny Meeks addressed the ambulance situation for parts of Hancock County excluded from paying the ambulance tax where fire protection districts levy a tax for ambulance service. Ms. Meeks is continuing to attempt successful contacts with the Dallas Rural Fire Protection District and Lomax Ambulance Service, Inc..

The fire protection district has levied an ambulance tax annually - yet no ambulance service has been provided by the Lomax Ambulance Service, the contracted service, much of the time. Other ambulance services must cover the calls.

Ms. Fleming said she desires agreement will be presented from the Hancock County Board to the Dallas Rural Fire Protection District for ambulance services provided by Hancock County EMS.

Mr. Rogers moved to approve a **Resolution Writing Off \$53,314.01 in Contractual Adjustments for Medicare, Medicaid, and Insurance Providers in May, 2020**. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

The Finance Committee discussed the property next to Niota Drainage District ditch and concluded it is best that the Trustee include it in the July sale.

The Board of Health did not submit requested appointees to the Board of Health. They should be ready for confirmation in July.

Mr. Steven moved to adjourn until Tuesday, July 21, 2020. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion, and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Asbridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kerry Asbridge
County Clerk

